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Brunton, David W. (1849-1927)

320 p.

David William Brunton was an internationally known engineer, who, after his schooling, made Denver his home.

Born in Ayr, Ontario, Canada, on June 11, 1849, Brunton grew up in Canada, and attended the University of Toronto, graduating with a degree in engineering. After three years of practice in Canada, he took a post-graduate course at the University of Michigan, and began work in the United States.

In 1875, Brunton came to Colorado and began work for the Dakota and San Juan Mining Company in Mineral City, San Juan District. Colorado became Brunton's home, and although he traveled extensively outside of Colorado, he always returned.

Brunton became a well known engineer throughout the Rockies, and the world. He travelled the world over, visiting mining operations and advising, from the Orient to Europe.

Brunton also invented numerous pieces of mining equipment, his most famous being the Brunton Transit which was used by engineers everywhere. During his travels, he constantly came up with new ideas.

During World War I, Brunton tried to join the Engineer Officers' Reserve Corps, but was turned down due to his age. He then became chairman of the War Committee of Technical Societies, a member of the Naval Consulting Board, and was on the National Council for Research.

After the war, Brunton became chairman of the board of consulting engineers for the Moffat Tunnel Commission.

In 1885, Brunton married Katherine Kemble. They had four children. Brunton was a member of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Scottish Rite, and a Shriner. He was also one of the few Americans to be given honorary membership in the British Institution of Civil Engineers. He died December 20, 1927 in Rochester, New York, after a prolonged illness. His body was returned to Denver for burial.

The collection contains two engineering journals (1875-1920) in which Brunton recorded all of his business dealing after his arrival in Colorado. The records also give exact names of many of the mines where he worked in Colorado and the world. In some instances, he adds notes of his personal life as well.

The collection was donated by Harold Brunton, the son of David W. Brunton through Lawrence Lewis in 1930.

Collection Number 90

Brunton, David W.

Engineering Record Volume 1 (1870-1909)

Page	Description
1-58	Chronological journal of D.W. Brunton of all his business dealings and travels. A few entries also describe personal occurrences in his life.
Unnumbered	Transcripts of press notices and letters of congratulation received on the election of D.W. Brunton to the presidency of the Council of the American Institute of Mining Engineers.

Engineering Record Volume 2 (1909-1920)

58-125 (cont. from Vol. 1)	Chronological journal of D.W. Brunton of all his business dealings and travels. A few entries also describe personal occurrences in his life.
126-164	Photographs and blueprints, with descriptions of inventions for mining by D.W. Brunton.
165-178	Transcripts of wartime letters, and records pertaining to D.W. Brunton's work as a member of the Naval Consulting Board and the National Research Council.
179-181	Lists of clients of D.W. Brunton (1875-1920).
182-184	Lists of assistants who worked with D.W. Brunton in business (1875-1920).